

In the claims:

Please substitute the following full listing of claims for the original claim listing.

1 - 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A method to assist decision-making, and to closely monitor various performance measures of an enterprise by extending supply chain management using financial management considerations, said method comprising the steps of:

designing a supply chain model for a firm utilizing firm-specific information including strategic objectives, a desired level of risk, market position of the firm and industry competitive landscape;

performing at least one optimization technique selected from the group of:

a. optimizing ownership structure and transfer pricing methodologies for an existing profit maximizing supply chain model;

b. optimizing supply chain design for an existing ownership structure by seeking to maximize profit or value of the firm within the context of international taxation and foreign exchange risk; and

c. optimizing supply chain design simultaneously with ownership structure, with the objective of maximizing profit or the value of the firm;

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the step of optimizing supply chain design for an existing ownership structure considers the foreign exchange risk by trading-off the firm's profitability and benefits of reducing risk by creating a supply chain that is naturally hedged using a constrained mathematical model with this trade-off modeled in objective function, thereby creating an efficient frontier showing optimal expected profits for a chosen level of risk.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the step of performing at least one optimization technique is accomplished by using a network design problem methodology.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the step of designing a supply chain model further comprises the step of performing Monte Carlo simulation to test robustness of proposed supply chain designs.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the Monte Carlo simulation provides an

analysis of impacts of varying foreign exchange rate scenarios.

25. (Original) A method as recite in claim 23, wherein the Monte Carlo simulation provides and analysis of impacts of foreign exchange movements on profitability of a selected supply chain design, wherein a customer demand is correlated with foreign exchange rates.

26. (Original) A method to assist decision-making, and to closely monitor various performance measures of an enterprise by extending supply chain management using financial management considerations, said method comprising the steps of:

designing a supply chain model for a firm utilizing firm-specific information including strategic objectives, a desired level of risk, market position of the firm and industry competitive landscape; and

estimating a loss in profitability associated with designing a supply chain to reduce risk; and

implementing the supply chain model designed in the designing step if a cost of obtaining a similar position using traditional financial risk management techniques is more than the cost using the supply chain model designed in the designing step.

27. (Original) A method to assist decision-making, and to closely monitor various performance measures of an enterprise by extending supply chain management using financial management considerations, said method comprising the steps of:

designing a supply chain model for a firm utilizing firm-specific information including strategic objectives, a desired level of risk, market position of the firm and industry competitive landscape; and

identifying optimal supply chain designs to maximize profitability or firm value at a selected risk level, with respect to at least one source of risk.

28. (Original) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the at least one source of risk is selected from the group of political risk, catastrophe risk, business risk, geographical risk and local market risks.